

## Resolution for Diocesan DPA Disclosure for Budgeting

Resolved, that Canon 5.1 be amended as follows  
(additions underlined, deletions in ~~strike~~through):

The Diocesan Council shall propose a budget, along with the Diocesan Program Assessment (DPA) and the calculations that were used to determine the DPA for each congregation, to be submitted to Convention delegates at least 45 days prior to the annual Convention. All budget requests must be submitted, in writing, to the Diocesan Council pursuant to a process established by the Council for the following year's budget and published to every congregation as early in the prior Church year as is practicable. The proposed budget and DPA estimates shall be published to each Parish, Mission, and voting delegate.

### Explanation

The Diocesan Budget is largely funded by the income from the Diocesan Program Assessment (DPA) which is calculated based upon the last two years' Parochial Reports submitted by each congregation. Notices to each congregation detailing their calculated DPA for the coming year go out in early November. This poses two difficulties.

The first is that the Diocesan budget is presented to the Convocations for feedback in July. This budget includes a significant income line (approximately 91% of the budget) which is DPA. Delegates cannot accurately assess a budget without knowing if it is affordable. No matter how well the Diocesan Council has allocated funds, we cannot truly evaluate this allocation until we understand the cost to each individual parish/mission. We are presented with a budget that includes anticipated expenses and anticipated income before we are informed what portion of that income, in the form of DPA, will be charged to each parish or mission. We vote blindly to endorse a budget before we know what it will cost each of us to fund that budget. This is like constructing an ideal parish budget and then sending each congregation a bill for their portion.

Secondly, many parishes are already past their own stewardship campaigns and deep into their budgeting processes when the DPA letters are sent out. Late word of a change to a significant budget line item is problematic.

This means that congregations are being asked to approve a budget without knowing what they are going to be required to contribute to that budget AND, often, are forced to adjust their own budgets at the last minute to accommodate the new DPA figure. It seems reasonable that congregations should be provided at least a preliminary estimate prior to being asked to approve a budget based on that estimate.

We note that the proposed budget presented in July of 2023 and the final budget approved at Convention bore the same expected DPA amount, indicating that the data is available and could be communicated to individual parishes and missions along with the budget.

### Budgetary Impact

This proposal is not expected to have a budgetary impact.

Proposed and endorsed by Sunset Convocation